

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
MID-DECEMBER NII AND TERRORISM TRACKING SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
DECEMBER 10-16, 2001
N = 1011

Q.1 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS A AND B FIRST, FOLLOWED BY ROTATED ITEMS C THROUGH F]

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a.	The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan	44	38	12	5	1=100
	Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1=100
	Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1=100
	Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1=100
	January, 1991 ¹	67	28	4	1	0=100
b.	Terrorism attacks on the United States	60	29	7	3	1=100
	Mid-November, 2001	66	25	6	2	1=100
	Early November, 2001	63	26	6	3	2=100
	Mid-October, 2001	78	16	4	1	1=100
	Early October, 2001 ²	73	22	4	1	*=100
	Mid-September, 2001	74	22	3	1	*=100
	June, 1995 ³	58	32	8	2	*=100
c.	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	37	40	13	8	2=100
	Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
	June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
	May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
	April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
	February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
	January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
	June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
	March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
	February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
	December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
	October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
	June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
	May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
	January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
	Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
	December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
	October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
	September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100

¹ In January 1991 the question was worded: "How closely have you been following news about the War in the Gulf?"

² In Early October 2001 and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded: "News about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington?"

³ In June 1995 the question was worded: "the Oklahoma City bombing."

Q.1 CONTINUED

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
c.	(continued)					
	Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
	August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
	May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
	February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
	January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
	September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
	May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
	March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
	February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
	January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
	October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
d.	Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis	31	40	19	9	1=100
	Early September, 2001	21	33	25	20	1=100
	April, 2001 ⁴	22	34	24	19	1=100
	Mid-October, 2000	30	38	18	13	1=100
	Early October, 2000	21	30	27	21	1=100
	January, 1997	12	23	29	35	1=100
	October, 1996	17	34	26	23	*=100
	May, 1988	18	37	34	9	2=100
e.	The bankruptcy of the Enron Corporation and its impact on the retirement investments of Enron employees	11	23	28	36	2=100
f.	The death of former Beatle George Harrison	10	23	30	35	2=100

Q.2 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the terrorist attacks and the war against terrorism? [READ]⁵

		Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	Mid-Oct <u>2001</u>	Early Oct <u>2001</u>	Mid-Sept <u>2001</u>	GULF WAR <u>Jan 1991</u>
32	Excellent	30	32	48	56	36
45	Good	47	42	37	33	42
15	Only fair	16	17	10	6	15
5	Poor	5	6	3	3	5
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

⁴ In April 2001 the story was listed as "Continued violence in the Middle East." In Mid-October 2000 the story was listed as "Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis." In Early October 2000 the story was listed as "Renewed violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis." In January 1997 the story was listed as "Renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron." In October 1996 the story was listed as "Renewed violence between Israelis & Palestinians on the West Bank and in Jerusalem." In May 1988 the story was listed as "The conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories."

⁵ In Early October 2001 and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded, "In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?" In January 1991 the question was worded "covering the War in the Gulf."

Q.3 How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States? **[READ]**

		Oct 15-21	Oct 10-14	Early Oct
		<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
13	Very worried	29	27	28
39	Somewhat worried	42	40	45
27	Not too worried	18	19	15
19	Not at all worried	10	12	11
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100